



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 27, 2001

### **H.R. 2277**

#### **A bill to provide for work authorization for nonimmigrant spouses of treaty traders and treaty investors**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 24, 2001*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2277 would result in no significant net cost to the federal government. The bill could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any net effects would be insignificant. H.R. 2277 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2277 would permit the spouses of certain nonimmigrant investors and businessmen to seek employment in the United States. Based on information from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), CBO estimates that the bill's provisions would apply to roughly 10,000 spouses annually. The INS would charge a fee of \$100 to provide a work permit, so the agency could collect an additional \$1 million annually in offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). The agency is authorized to spend such fees without further appropriation, so the net impact on INS spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.